

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-63 and add claims 64-108, as indicated below. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1-63. (Cancelled)

64. (New) A bladder comprising:

a sealed barrier defining an interior volume and formed of a polymer sheet material, the barrier having:

a first portion that forms a first surface of the bladder,

a second portion that forms an opposite second surface of the bladder, and

a sidewall portion that extends between the first portion and the second portion to form a sidewall of the bladder;

a tensile member located within the interior volume and bonded to the first portion and the second portion of the barrier, the tensile member being formed of a polymer foam material; and

a fluid located within the interior volume, the fluid being pressurized to place an outward force upon the barrier and induce tension in at least a portion of the tensile member.

65. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein at least one of the first surface and the second surface are non-planar.

66. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the first surface has a concave configuration.

67. (New) The bladder recited in claim 66, wherein a surface of the tensile member that is bonded to the first portion of the barrier has a concave area.

68. (New) The bladder recited in claim 66, wherein the second surface has a substantially planar configuration.

69. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein substantially all of the first portion and the second portion of the barrier are bonded to the tensile member.

70. (New) The bladder recited in claim 69, wherein the sidewall portion of the barrier is substantially unbonded to the tensile member.

71. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein at least a portion of a surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier is spaced from the sidewall portion of the barrier.

72. (New) The bladder recited in claim 71, wherein the surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier has a concave configuration.

73. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein surfaces of the tensile member that are adjacent the first portion and the sidewall portion of the barrier have concave configurations.

74. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the tensile member has:

- a first layer that is bonded to substantially all of the first portion of the barrier;
- a second layer that is bonded to substantially all of the second portion of the barrier; and
- a plurality of columns that extend between the first layer and the second layer.

75. (New) The bladder recited in claim 74, wherein the first layer of the tensile member has a concave configuration.

76. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the tensile member and the barrier are directly bonded to each other.

77. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the polymer sheet material and the polymer foam material are polyurethane materials.

78. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the tensile member has a first section and a second section, a density of the first section being greater than a density of the second section.

79. (New) The bladder recited in claim 64, wherein the tensile member defines a plurality of channels extending into the polymer foam material.

80. (New) The bladder recited in claim 79, wherein the channels extend through the tensile member.

81. (New) The bladder recited in claim 79, wherein a first channel is substantially perpendicular to a second channel.

82. (New) The bladder recited in claim 81, wherein the first channel and the second channel intersect.

83. (New) An article of footwear having an upper and a sole structure secured to the upper, the sole structure including a bladder comprising:

a sealed barrier defining an interior volume and formed of a polymer sheet material, the barrier having:

a first portion that forms a first surface of the bladder,

a second portion that forms an opposite second surface of the bladder, and

a sidewall portion that extends between the first portion and the second portion to form a sidewall of the bladder;

a tensile member located within the interior volume and bonded to the first portion and the second portion of the barrier, the tensile member being formed of a polymer foam material; and

a fluid located within the interior volume, the fluid being pressurized to place an outward force upon the barrier and induce tension in at least a portion of the tensile member.

84. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the upper is secured to the first surface of the bladder, and an outsole of the sole structure is secured to the second surface of the bladder.

85. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein at least one of the first surface and the second surface are non-planar.

86. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the first surface has a concave configuration.

87. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 86, wherein a surface of the tensile member that is bonded to the first portion of the barrier has a concave area.

88. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 86, wherein the second surface has a substantially planar configuration.

89. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein substantially all of the first portion and the second portion of the barrier are bonded to the tensile member.

90. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 89, wherein the sidewall portion of the barrier is substantially unbonded to the tensile member.

91. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein at least a portion of a surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier is spaced from the sidewall portion of the barrier.

92. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 91, wherein the surface of the tensile member that is adjacent the sidewall portion of the barrier has a concave configuration.

93. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein surfaces of the tensile member that are adjacent the first portion and the sidewall portion of the barrier have concave configurations.

94. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the tensile member has:
a first layer that is bonded to substantially all of the first portion of the barrier;
a second layer that is bonded to substantially all of the second portion of the barrier; and
a plurality of columns that extend between the first layer and the second layer.

95. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 94, wherein the first layer of the tensile member has a concave configuration.

96. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the tensile member and the barrier are directly bonded to each other.

97. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the polymer sheet material and the polymer foam material are polyurethane materials.

98. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the tensile member has a first section and a second section, a density of the first section being greater than a density of the second section.

99. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 83, wherein the tensile member defines a plurality of channels extending into the polymer foam material.

100. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 99, wherein the channels extend through the tensile member.

101. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 99, wherein a first channel is substantially perpendicular to a second channel.

102. (New) The article of footwear recited in claim 101, wherein the first channel and the second channel intersect.

103. (New) A method of manufacturing a component for an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

forming a barrier that defines an interior volume;

positioning a foam member within the interior volume, the foam member having a first surface and an opposite second surface, the first surface having a non-planar configuration;

directly bonding the barrier to the first surface and the second surface of the foam member to impart the non-planar configuration of the first surface to a portion of the barrier; and

pressurizing the interior volume to place an outward force upon the barrier and induce tension in the foam member.

104. (New) The method recited in claim 103, wherein the step of forming includes manufacturing the barrier from at least one sheet of a thermoplastic polymer material.

105. (New) The method recited in claim 103, wherein the step of directly bonding includes heating the foam member and the barrier to bond the foam member and the barrier without an adhesive.

106. (New) The method recited in claim 103, wherein the step of pressurizing includes sealing the barrier.

107. (New) The method recited in claim 103, further including a step of selecting a material for the barrier and the foam member to be a thermoplastic polymer.

108. (New) The method recited in claim 107, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is polyurethane.